

St. Petersburg Oct. <sup>o 44</sup> 25 1781.

Dear Sir

My last to you was from Amsterdam by Com:  
Gillon in the S<sup>t</sup>. Carolina frigate, which has probably arrived  
before this time. I should have been happy to have had leisure  
enô to have wrote you when my first diff<sup>er</sup> at<sup>ce</sup> went from  
hence: but here I am without any mortal to assist me; except  
the son of a friend who is still with me. I hope most sincerely  
my business will be finished here early in next<sup>year</sup> that I may return  
once more to our beloved Country; for I am most heartily weary  
of this world. I cannot yet say whether this is even probable before  
I have made my communication, which I have rather delayed  
doing, to avoid creating any difference with the 5.1.5.13.13.8.12.19.  
14. 8.2. 20. 4.1. than from any other consideration. I am however  
apposed on all sides, except one, that things will go as they shoud  
do. But patience is every where the word. But if my patience  
shoud be exhausted before affairs are properly matured, I trust,  
considering the great distance there is between us, and the time  
which must be lost in waiting for ~~—~~ for a formal permission  
that I shall be excused quitting the ground whenever I become  
persuaded that it is to little purpose to remain upon it. You are  
not to suppose from hence than I am disengaged, for otherwise;  
and if some evil genius does not take the rule, I shall hope to  
do the thing which is needful here by the middle of next year.  
I confess it woud be a great mortification to me to return without

accompliciting the business of my mission; that done, I shall not be  
at ease till I put my foot again on the promised Land. I have  
now seen no <sup>one</sup> of this world to convince me ours is the best of all  
possible worlds. - But let me ask what are you about these; do  
you seriously mean to attack New-York? I am not ignorant of  
the plan which has been settled for this purpose, but I cannot yet  
realize it that it will be carried into execution. Some <sup>un</sup>expected  
accident or other, I fear, will render again all your hopes abortive.  
The accomplishment of this plan would be of the last importance  
to our Country. It would put the <sup>troops</sup> in our hands, and we could  
finish the game most peacefully: For I take it for granted, it would  
soon rid the whole of our Country of our enemies. And we might  
spread the net for S. Grana's favorite <sup>Diff.</sup> I have a ~~few~~ <sup>good</sup> ~~good~~  
notions that 14. 4. 18. 27. 22. 12. 24. intends by every possible exertion  
that we shall be freed from 19. 18. 5. 4. 24. 5. 12. 8. 2. 24. 24. 5. 6. 25. 20.  
8. 11. 20. 8. 25. 14. 14. 24. 12. 24. My 15. 19. 19. 2. 11. 18. 24. is my 4. 7. 3. 11. 4. 19.  
8. 5. 5. 17. 19. 7. 7. 3. Do you doubt this? Should it not be so, why then  
we shall soon see, that <sup>it</sup> is not. And if all goes right. I say let us  
strike hands with Placentia and on for Custodia. Remember  
the great national object is 19. 25. 13. 2. 25. 4. Besides, we get between  
Laconia's legs, and you <sup>know</sup> the benefits of such a situation. And this  
ends at once the matter that lies in Potts about 15. 15. 14. 12. 19. 2. 25.  
20. which you may rely upon it will be serious business if we  
don't effect a change there. Strike at the root, Custodia is the  
word. Adieu my dear Sir. May Heaven proffers all our honest  
designs. I am with much sincerity your friend & bble. Servt

Honble James Lovell RW1144(1)

GW D 1811

French minister - ally the enemy by negotia-  
tion only - piscary - exclusive Right - Town Cod -  
Penobscot.

Oct 14  
1781  
from Miss F. Dana  
rec'd April 2. 82

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RW1144(2) - MS. CH. A. 2. 27